

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
AND THE 177 HEALTH PLAN

I. BACKGROUND

P. L. 96-205 authorized the establishment of a specific program of comprehensive health care under the Department of the Interior for the peoples of the four atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik who were affected by the U. S. nuclear testing program. Accordingly, a medical treatment and care program was implemented by DOI in the Marshall Islands. This program became the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands with implementation of the Compact of Free Association (P. L. 99-239) and it is presently known as the 177 Health Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan).

The Department of Energy through P. L.s 95-134, 96-205, and 99-239, has provided medical surveillance and monitoring of those individuals in the Marshall Islands who were exposed to radioactive fallout as a result of the nuclear testing program. The 253 originally exposed persons of Rongelap and Utrik have been monitored and treated by DOE through the medical department of Brookhaven National Laboratory since 1954. The exposed population now numbers 163.

II. OBJECTIVES

Overall responsibility for health care and treatment in the Marshall Islands rests with the Ministry of Health Services, Republic of the Marshall Islands. One of its principal objectives is to ensure that the general health care of the population is delivered within a coordinated, unified framework. Accordingly, the Plan is administered as a unique but integrated part of the Government's health care system.

The Plan's major objective is to provide and/or arrange for the provision and delivery of primary, secondary, and tertiary health services and education to the peoples of the Four Atolls (Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik).

The DOE's objective is to work within the framework of the Republic of the Marshall Islands health care system to the maximum extent possible and provide to the exposed population only the special monitoring and diagnostic procedures required to serve their unique medical needs.

In order to ensure that health care and services are provided to the peoples affected by or exposed to nuclear testing in a unified, coordinated, and unduplicated manner, the 177 Health Plan and the Department of Energy, with the concurrence of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, agree on the following understandings:

### III. UNDERSTANDINGS

A. The Plan will examine and treat eligible individuals from the above four atolls, including exposed persons who are on the DOE lists, and at no additional cost to DOE. The DOE will likewise examine and treat the Plan's eligible individuals as time permits during the course of monitoring the exposed population while on medical surveys in the outer islands of Utrik and Rongelap (Mejato), and at no cost to the Plan. DOE will also provide consultations at the request of the Plan while on medical surveys in the Marshall Islands, also without cost.

B. The Plan and the DOE will coordinate medical referrals within and outside the Marshall Islands insofar as concerns the Plan and DOE eligible individuals. The Plan is responsible for referrals of all four atoll eligible individuals to treatment facilities within and outside the Marshall Islands, with one exception, and the Plan will assume medical, transportation, and related costs for such referrals. DOE can recommend to the Plan exposed and unexposed individuals that should be referred for secondary and tertiary care and the Plan will make the referral determinations through its own physicians and use of resources. The exception stated above is for certain exposed and matching control persons identified by DOE for referral outside of the Marshall Islands for diagnostic procedures and medical treatment. (This exception will arise primarily in connection with surveillance of the exposed population for possible radiation relatable effects, the determination of which shall be made by BNL). DOE and/or BNL will assume the costs associated with such referrals and will coordinate its referral activities with REPMAR.

C. The Plan and the DOE will exchange information and medical records on eligible, individuals within their respective programs, on a consistent and frequent basis. The Plan will provide a quarterly summary to the DOE of the status of patients referred by DOE to the Plan. The Plan will also provide to DOE reports of site visits to Uterik and Rongelap (Mejato). It is noted that Brookhaven National Laboratory will make its uniquely developed medical records computer program available to the Plan if requested.

D. The Plan and the DOE will share resources and staff, when practical and feasible, to facilitate the achievement of their respective objectives. This shall include the use of medical personnel, equipment, supplies, communication gear, assigned radio frequencies, means of transportation, etc., particularly during DOE's ship-supported medical survey missions or Plan field visits. Such sharing shall be coordinated through the DOE representative during field missions or through subsidiary agreements (such as that which governs the Plan's use of the DOE's examination trailer at Ebeye, etc.).

E. The Plan and the DOE will establish written procedures and means of coordination as soon as practicable to implement this Memorandum of Understanding. For its part, the DOE will develop and issue a PASO Standard Operating Procedure. The procedures and coordination steps will be developed in consultation with the Ministry of Health, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

F. Program authorities for the implementation of this MOU are the Administrator, 177 Health Plan and the Director, Pacific Area Support Office, DOE. It is noted that broad authority over the Plan may be exercised by the Secretary, Ministry of Health Services, to ensure that its activities are coordinated within its unified health services system. It is likewise noted that the procedural aspects of DOE's implementation of the MOU shall be typically exercised by Brookhaven National Laboratory,.

#### IV. FACILITIES

The Plan and the DOE have specific facilities whose coordinated use and shared access will contribute significantly to their respective and mutual programs:

##### A. DOE

1. Medical survey vessel M. V. Liktanur III stationed at Kwajalein which supports up to two missions per year.
2. Air conditioned examination and laboratory trailers (2) at Ebeye Island adjacent to Ebeye Hospital.
3. Portable examination vans (female and male) at Kwajalein.
4. Portable radiography/mammography van at Kwajalein.
5. Research field stations at Eniwetok and Bikini (for logistical support).

##### B. 177 Health Plan

All facilities belong to and are operated by the Ministry of Health and/or its contractor, Mercy International Health Services which also is a subcontractor for administration and financial operation of the Plan. They would include access to and use of:

1. Majuro and Ebeye Hospitals.

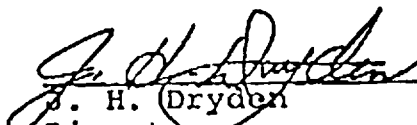
2. Island dispensaries at Enewetak, Ujelang, Ejit, Mejato, Utrik,, Kili, Medrin.


It is recognized by the Plan and the DOE that the objectives of this MOU cannot be realized without the involvement, participation, and contribution of the Ministry of Health Services, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Accordingly, both parties will continue to seek guidance from and to consult with the Ministry on their plans and missions. DOE will rely, in particular, on REPMAR for staff support and services to its medical surveys, and will, when feasible and practical, recruit mission staff in accordance with Ministerial health needs and priorities as well as arrange for the participation of Public Health team(s) in its missions, etc.

#### V. REVIEW AND CONCURRENCE


A. This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed and updated annually by the program authorities or their designees.

B. No part of these understandings may be implemented without the review and concurrence of the Secretary, Ministry of Health Services

  
J. H. Dryden  
Director  
USDOE/PASO  
1/12-88  
Date

  
James Kellogg  
Administrator  
170 Health Plan  
4 Jan 88  
Date

Concurrence:

  
Secretary, Ministry of Health Services  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Date